

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 29-38 without prejudice to the presentation of the canceled subject matter in a continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 39-48.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A striking tool comprising:

a handle having a bottom edge, the bottom edge having a center point;

a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; and

a generally curved shank connecting the handle to the head , the generally curved shank defining a curved centerline;

wherein the weight center is disposed between the curved centerline and the striking surface, wherein the center point and a second point positioned along a centerline of the handle define a straight line, and wherein the straight line intersects the head.

Claim 2 (original): The striking tool of Claim 1 wherein a grip is disposed on the handle.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 1 wherein the handle is ~~an elongate~~ a generally curved handle.

Claim 4 (original): The striking tool of Claim 1 wherein the handle defines a skeletal ribbed structure, the skeletal ribbed structure having interstitial spaces.

Claim 5 (original): The striking tool of Claim 4 wherein a grip is disposed on the handle so that the grip is partially within the interstitial spaces.

Claim 6 (original): The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the curved shank is integral with the handle so as to provide a unitary piece.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the curved shank has a groove ~~at the end opposite~~ distal to the end ~~bottom edge~~ of the handle.

Claim 8 (original): The striking tool of Claim 7, wherein the groove accepts a gasket which is injection molded into the groove.

Claim 9 (original): The striking tool of Claim 8, wherein the head is fixed within the groove of the shank.

Claim 10 (original): The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the head is forged.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the top of the head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 10, wherein the top of the forged head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

Claim 13 (original): The striking tool of Claim 6, wherein the unitary piece encases a pultrusion.

Claim 14 (original): The striking tool of Claim 13, wherein the pultrusion is a pultruded rod.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A striking tool comprising:

a handle having a bottom edge, the bottom edge having a center point;

a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; ~~wherein the head includes and~~ further including an overstrike flange,
and

a generally curved shank connecting the handle to the head, the generally curved shank defining a curved centerline;
wherein the weight center is disposed between the curved centerline and the striking surface, wherein the center point and a second point positioned along a centerline of the handle define a straight line, and wherein the straight line intersects the head.

Claim 16 (original): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein a grip is disposed on the handle.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 15 wherein the handle is ~~an elongate~~ a generally curved handle.

Claim 18 (original): The striking tool of Claim 15 wherein the handle defines a skeletal ribbed structure, the skeletal ribbed structure having interstitial spaces.

Claim 19 (original): The striking tool of Claim 18 wherein a grip is disposed on the handle so that the grip is partially within the interstitial spaces.

Claim 20 (original): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the curved shank is integral with the handle so as to provide a unitary piece.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the curved shank has a groove ~~at the end opposite~~ distal to the end bottom edge of the handle.

Claim 22 (original): The striking tool of Claim 21, wherein the groove accepts a gasket which is injection molded into the groove.

Claim 23 (original): The striking tool of Claim 22, wherein the head is fixed within the groove of the shank.

Claim 24 (original): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the head is forged.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the top of the head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The striking tool of Claim 24, wherein the top of the forged head is substantially curved over a continuous radius.

Claim 27 (original): The striking tool of Claim 20, wherein the unitary piece encases a pultrusion.

Claim 28 (original): The striking tool of Claim 27, wherein the pultrusion is a pultruded rod.

Claims 29-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (new): The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the head is cast.

Claim 40 (new): The striking tool of Claim 1, wherein the head is machined.

Claim 41 (new): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the head is cast.

Claim 42 (new): The striking tool of Claim 15, wherein the head is machined.

Claim 43 (new): The striking tool of Claim 3, wherein the generally curved handle and the generally curved shank have a common continuous radius.

Claim 44 (new): The striking tool of Claim 17, wherein the generally curved handle and the generally curved shank have a common continuous radius.

Claim 45 (new): A striking tool comprising:
a handle;

a head, the head defining a striking surface, the head further defining a weight center; and

a generally curved shank connecting the handle to the head , the generally curved shank defining a curved centerline;

wherein the weight center is disposed between the curved centerline and the striking surface;

wherein a horizontal plane is defined as the plane on which the striking tool rests when laid flat on its side; and

wherein a first cutting plane divides the striking tool along the length of the striking tool, wherein the first cutting plane is perpendicular to the horizontal plane; and

wherein a line which is intersected by the first cutting plane is defined by a first point positioned along a center line of the handle and a second point positioned along the center line of the handle, wherein the second point is vertically 2 inches up the handle as measured from the first point, and wherein the first point is separated by a vertical distance of 2 inches from a bottommost point, wherein the bottommost point is defined by a bottom edge of the handle, and wherein the bottommost point is intersected by a line that is parallel to the first cutting plane.

Claim 46 (new): The striking tool of Claim 33, wherein a top edge of the head defines a center point, wherein a second cutting plane which is perpendicular to the first cutting plane is disposed 2 inches down from the second center point.

Claim 47 (new): The striking tool of Claim 34, wherein a head portion is defined by the second cutting plane, and wherein the head portion is further divided by the first cutting plane into a first region and a second region, wherein the first

region is proximal to the striking surface, and wherein the second region is distal to the striking surface.

Claim 48 (new): The striking tool of Claim 35, wherein the weight of the first region is between 70 and 90 % of the sum of the weights of the first and second regions.